

Retirement Planning Firm Head Attains Special IRS Certification

Ronald K. Stair, PhD, President of Creative Plan Designs, LTD. in East Meadow, NY, has passed the IRS' rigorous ERPA certification test.

East Meadow, NY, June 26, 2009- The world of retirement plans for a company's employees is bewildering and in constant flux. State and federal laws are seemingly endless and they often change. Ronald Stair, PhD, President of Creative Plan Designs, LTD. knows this and constantly strives to keep himself and his company at the forefront of the retirement industry.

To this end, Dr. Stair has recently passed the IRS' newest and arguably most difficult test and has been awarded the designation of Enrolled Retirement Plan Agent (ERPA). An ERPA is an individual who has earned the privilege of representing clients with respect to complex and sophisticated retirement plan issues.

The ERPA designation is awarded after passing a comprehensive Special Enrollment Examination relating to retirement plan matters and their tax implications. Dr. Stair estimates that a candidate must do between 150 and 200 hours of study time to prepare for the test. After passing the two three-hour ERPA Special Enrollment Examinations, the ERPA candidate must apply for enrollment with the Service and follow stringent renewal and continuing education procedures. ERPAs will be required to demonstrate competency and be held to a high standard of professional and ethical conduct.

Dr. Stair is one of fewer than 100 people nationwide to have passed these rigorous exams, out of over 1000 who took it. The certification won't be common in the future, either: "The IRS hopes to get 9000 ERPA certifications nationwide over the next 5 years," Dr. Stair said.

Dr. Stair's ERPA certification sets him and his company apart from other professionals and firms. "Accountants and tax attorneys know tax laws and can represent clients in front of the IRS," Dr. Stair says, "But they don't have the retirement planning experience and knowledge that we do."

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